



Weekly News 17th May 2019



From the Head

We are delighted that we will be able to welcome award-winning writer and former parent of St Margaret's, Leila Aboulela, to school on Wednesday 12th June from 2:30 to 3:30pm. Ms Aboulela will discuss her latest book 'In Conversation with Leila Aboulela', and her most recent book 'Bird Summons', and will answer questions from a panel of pupils and the audience. There will also be an opportunity to purchase copies of her books courtesy of Waterstones. If you would like to join us at this event please register at stmargaretsevents.com.

Leila Aboulela was born in Cairo, grew up in Khartoum and moved in her mid-twenties to Aberdeen. She is the author of five novels, *Bird Summons*, *The Translator*, a New York Times 100 Notable Books of the Year, *The Kindness of Enemies*, *Minaret* and *Lyrics Alley*, Fiction Winner of the Scottish Book Awards. Leila's work has received critical recognition and a high profile for its distinctive exploration of identity, migration and Islamic spirituality. She was the first winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing and her latest story collection, *Elsewhere, Home* won the Saltire Fiction Book of the Year Award. Leila's work has been translated into fifteen languages and she was long-listed three times for the Orange Prize for Fiction. Her plays *The Insider*, *The Mystic Life* and others were broadcast on BBC Radio and her fiction included in publications such as Freeman's, Granta and Harper's Magazine.



School Event

In conversation with
Leila Aboulela
Award winning
author of the novel
Bird Summons

Date:
Wednesday
12th June
2.30-3.30pm
School Hall

Tickets:
Tickets are limited so
please register now
at
stmargaretsevents.com

With the summer recess a few weeks away, you are invited to enjoy an early 'Jolly Holiday with Mary'. 'Can You Imagine That?' for one night only this year, St Margaret's PTA are hosting a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious film night for all the family – and Mary Poppins Returns especially for the occasion.

'Mary Poppins Returns' starring Emily Blunt will be held in the School Hall at 6:15pm sharp on Friday 24th May. Now, you could all decide to 'Go Fly A Kite' or 'Feed the Birds' but we're hoping you'll choose instead to 'Trip a Little Light Fantastic' down to St Meg's. We have a 'Spoonful of Sugar' to tempt you – the £2 per person ticket price includes a small bag of popcorn and a chocolate treat. Why not take along your own water bottle to fill up so we can cut down on waste.

And we just know little ones who 'Love to Laugh' will 'Stay Awake' for the 2 hour, 10 minute magical journey which will cast a spell of happiness that will have them floating on air. So spit spot and come along and Chim, Chim, Cheree with us!

From the PTA and 'Mary Poppins With Love'



Race for Life

Last year staff and friends of St Margaret's took part in the 5K Race for Life, raising an impressive £3,317.80 for Cancer Research, a charity close to many of our hearts.

St Margaret's will be entering a team again this year, taking part in the 5K on Sunday 9th June at 11:00am. Please visit <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/st-margarets-and-friends> to either join our team or to donate money for such a worthy cause.



RACE FOR LIFE

WE DON'T BREAK RECORDS. WE BEAT CANCER.

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life is a series of events raising money for research into all 200 types of cancer

Theatre Summer School

We are delighted to offer a week long theatre summer school for girls aged between 7 and 12 years. Participants will work in our drama studio on various theatre skills throughout the week, culminating in a performance for invited guests.

The school will run Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm and the cost of the week long course is £150. For further information please contact the school office.

Ms K. Schmitz

Jungle Charity Event

On Thursday 30th May IM will be running a charity event in the hall in aid of Born Free. There will be a variety of stalls available including a tombola, jungle hunt and lucky square. Stalls vary from 20p to 50p so there's plenty of choice for everyone. It will be running from 12.30-1.30pm in the hall. Please come and help us support this excellent charity!

<https://www.bornfree.org.uk/>

Mrs K. Williamson



Debater Trophy Competition

On Monday this week, four of our girls took part in the Debater Trophy Competition at Albyn School. This competition is for pupils who have never debated before. We were delighted that our two teams were placed first and second. All girls spoke very well and showed lots of future potential. Congratulations to Ellie Lang and Orla Madden who were the winners, and Sophie Jennings and Deborah Esezabor who were second .

Mrs H. Jennings



I Senior Geography Fieldwork

On Monday this week, the I Senior girls spent the morning at the beach to complete their fieldwork. They were looking at the human impact on the environment, brushing up on their map skills, and considering how the area could be improved. They are now making plans to re-design the beach front. Although the girls worked hard, there was still time to stop for ice cream!

Mrs H. Jennings



Twenty-three pupils from I, II and III Senior took part in the trip to Hadrian's Wall at the end of last week. Our first visit was the Roman fort of Segedunum in Wallsend where we had a very informative guided tour. Our guide took us around the main sections of the fort and showed us a replica of the Wall where the pupils enjoyed a mock battle between barbarians attacking from the north and Roman soldiers posted on the Wall. The members of staff were seen as easy targets but put up a brave fight!

Our accommodation was in the Roman fort of Birdoswald, the only hostel situated **in** a Roman fort. It is at Birdoswald that the longest surviving stretch of the Wall can be seen. On Saturday, we learnt about and saw examples of the main defensive features along the 74 mile long north-west frontier of the Roman Empire: milecastles, turrets, the Vallum and forts. Walking to the fort of Housesteads with its commanding views over the Northumberland countryside and to the famous bath house in the fort of Chesters prepared us physically for the last challenge of the day: training as auxiliary soldiers in the Roman army. Rufus Aelius Victor, alias Roy, trained us as his new recruits after he had shown us the weapons and armour of both legionary and auxiliary soldiers. From disorganised barbarians we were changed into disciplined and skilful auxiliaries!

On Sunday, we visited the fort of Vindolanda and the extensive civilian settlement outside its walls. In the museum, the students had the chance to look at the large collection of leather goods, coins and the photographic exhibition of the scripts of the writing tablets discovered in a rubbish heap in the fort. It is in one of these texts that the author uses the term *Brittunculi* ("wretched little Britons") to speak about the local British. The term did not apply to our group, Brittunculi being masculine...

The pupils learnt a lot about the Wall and the life of soldiers posted along this northern frontier and participated with great enthusiasm in the various activities organised. OPTIME!

Mrs V. Oldham





On Wednesday 15th May, the English department hosted our second TeachMeet for English practitioners from across Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire. The morning's theme was 'Active Reading'. We were delighted to receive a presentation from Dr David Johnston, course leader for PGDE Secondary English at the University of Aberdeen. David explored how we can use puzzle-based approaches to teaching language and ensured we were reminded of how it feels to be a pupil by putting us in their shoes with a series of practical activities. It was particularly enlightening to hear David speak about the importance of developing reading engagement across the curriculum in order to develop critical independence in learning. Following this, we turned our attention to four English teachers who shared with us their good practice through 'popcorn' presentations. These ten-minute presentations included: running dictations, global citizenship, active reading strategies and questioning the text. All the presenters spoke passionately about their experience and left us all with plenty food for thought. After the coffee break we heard from Dr Wayne Price, Senior Lecturer in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Aberdeen. Wayne's focus was on encouraging us to remember that reading is the key to self-empowerment. He shared with us the University's undergraduate first year courses and gave us all a greater understanding of the skills expected by the University so that we can ensure that our pupils are thoroughly prepared for the high level of academic independence required in their first year of further education. Wayne referenced Soren Kierkegaard when stressing that reading is part of what we all need to help us make sense of the world: 'We live our life forwards but understand backwards.' Looking back on this year's TeachMeet, we can definitely say that it has left us more enthused, enlightened and empowered.

Mrs S. Torrie



On Tuesday twenty-five pupils from I to III Senior participated in the annual Albyn Athletics match at Milltimber. On a lovely sunny day we had some excellent individual results and came a very close third team place overall.



Last Sunday Anna in 7 Junior competed in the Scottish East District athletics meet in the 1500m and came third. At the same meet Una McGee came first in the U17 discus competition. Well done to both girls.



Hockey

Martha Sheal was nominated by her hockey club Granite City Wanderers for the Scottish Hockey North Youth Volunteer of the Year Award for 2019 because of her commitment with helping coach and umpire the younger players. The North District Executive Committee were very impressed with her commitment and enthusiasm, and I am delighted to say that she has won the inaugural Youth Award for 2019. Martha has won a pair of tickets to the Women's Euro's at Glasgow Green in August. Well done Martha!

Mrs K. Norval



Bag2School



@bag2schooluk

www.bag2school.com



follow us on Facebook

Our next **Bag2School** collection
has been arranged for

Monday 20th May 2019

at 8am-9am am / pm

Any questions - please ask your
school collection organiser

School Office

www.bag2school.com



Bag2School Collection (continued)

TURN YOUR PRE-LOVED ITEM INTO CASH FOR OUR GIRLS!

Bag2School is back and ready to bring in a bumper cash contribution to the coffers of St Margaret's School for Girls Parent Teacher Association.

If you're getting ready for a spring clear-out, you have the perfect opportunity to offload all of your unwanted, good quality clothes, shoes, bags, and bedspreads to the PTA, who will in turn pass it on to **Bag2School**.

Proceeds will go to the school to pay for all of those luxury, additional items not routinely covered by school fees. They are special little 'extras' that will make our girls time at St Margaret's all the more memorable. And it couldn't be easier. Collection bags will be sent home with your girls in the run up to the Easter break on Friday. All of you have to do is go through your cupboards and drawers, select items no longer needed from the list below, put in the collection bags provided and return them to the school by 9am on the morning of **Monday 20th May**. PTA reps will be in the school car park from 8am to collect them and hand them over to **Bag2School**, who will do the rest.

Bag2School is a trading name of Next Best Clothing Ltd, the largest textile collection company working with schools in the UK. Founded in 1999, it has paid over £32 million to schools, nurseries, playgroups, pre-school groups and churches which is helping the Circular Economy. With its trading stablemate Bag2TheFuture, it provides a free fundraising service for anyone using a resource EVERYONE has got in their wardrobe – unwanted clothes. Better still, the bags used for collections are all recycled! Of its annual turnover Bag2School pays 76 - 80 % to schools, 18 - 20 % is spent on operational costs and 2 - 4 % is profit.

It accepts the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

- ☐ Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- ☐ Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- ☐ Handbags
- ☐ Hats
- ☐ Bags
- ☐ Scarves and ties
- ☐ Jewellery
- ☐ Lingerie
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Belts
- ☐ Soft toys
- ☐ Household linen
- ☐ Household curtains
- ☐ Household towels
- ☐ Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

We **DO NOT** accept:

- ☐ Duvets and blankets
- ☐ Pillows and cushions
- ☐ Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- ☐ Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- ☐ School uniforms with and without logo
- ☐ Corporate clothing and workwear
- ☐ Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

In the event of inclement weather please protect your Bag2School investment by covering with a plastic sheet or storing bags undercover as wet items cannot be accepted.

If in doubt, please call us on 01609 780222.



You give
your charity
100%
The **Hunter**
Foundation
adds **40%**

13 MILES
THE **Big**
Stroll

6 MILES
THE **Wee**
Wander

26 MILES
THE **Mighty**
Stride

Kiltwalk
Aberdeen
Sunday 2nd June
'Walk as a family
for a family'



Support and friendship
for families

Could your family be a **wee wanderer** in the Aberdeen Kiltwalk for Home-Start Aberdeen?

We're looking for families who can join the fun of the **Kiltwalk 2019** and raise money for Home-Start Aberdeen.

For further information contact Karen Smith or sign up online:

fundraiser@homestartaberdeen.org.uk

<https://registration.everydayhero.com/ps/event/TheAberdeenKiltwalk2019>